

FISCHER RANCH
Eloise Fischer & Family
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April 4, 2004

Docket No. 03-080-2
Regulatory Analysis & Development, PPD
AHIS, Station 3C71
4700 River Road Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20730-1238

RE: Proposed Action Amending Regulations Regarding Importation of Animals and Animal Products
From Countries with Isolated Cases of BSE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the USDA reopening the Canadian border to live cattle imports. It could endanger the health of the American consumer and would most certainly inflict serious economic damage to most US cattle producers.

Canadian live cattle must not be allowed into the US until these concerns are met:

1. US export markets must be restored and the US is assured that renewed trade with Canada will not result in our export markets being closed off again.
2. Canada must be in compliance with United States BSE regulations.
3. All Canadian cattle must be identified as to Country of Origin before entering the US. They should be branded with a "C" on the jaw, as Mexican cattle are branded with an "M".
4. All imported beef needs to be identifiable as to origin completely through retail.

I understand that there are approximately one million head of feeder cattle ready to be sent across the border as soon as it is re-opened. These cattle must not be allowed to enter the US in a flood! Their entrance must be metered in over a certain length of time—at least several months. If these cattle are allowed to flood the market, I may not survive the financial hit. As a California beef producer, I can barely meet my expenses with a \$550 calf; and that doesn't leave me with a margin to replace worn out equipment or maintain and repair ranch improvements such as fences and corrals

In order to protect American consumers and cattlemen, I strongly urge you to keep the Canadian border closed until Canada has resolved their issues with BSE. And when it is reopened, Canadian cattle must be admitted in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed action.

Sincerely,


Eloise Fischer

cc: The Honorable Ann Veneman, US Secretary of Agriculture

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